



Post-Roe differences surface in GOP over new abortion rules



Wisconsin Assembly Speaker Robin Vos talks to the media after Gov. Tony Evers addressed a joint session of the Legislature in the Assembly chambers during the Governor's State of the State speech at the state Capitol, Feb. 15, 2022, in Madison, Wis.

Associated Press

By HANNAH FINGERHUT and SCOTT MADISON, Wis. (AP) —

When the U.S. Supreme Court repealed in June a woman's constitutional right to an abortion, Wisconsin's 1849 law that bans the procedure except when a mother's life is at risk became newly relevant. Republicans in the Legislature blocked an attempt by Democratic Gov. Tony Evers to overturn the law. Yet there's disagreement inside the GOP over how to move forward when they return to the state Capitol in January.

The state's powerful Republican Assembly speaker, Robin Vos, supports reinforcing the exception for a mother's life and adding protections for instances involving rape and incest. Others, including GOP state Rep. Barbara Dittich, say the law should stay as it is, without exceptions for rape and incest. For decades, Republicans like Vos and Dittich appealed to conservative voters — and donors — with broad condemnation of abortion. But the Supreme Court's decision is forcing Republicans from state leg-

islatures to Congress to the campaign trail to articulate more specifically what that opposition means, sometimes creating division over where the party should stand. Dittich says consensus among her Republican colleagues on an alternative to the 1849 law would be a "tremendous challenge." "We once heard that the Democrats were the big-tent party," she said in an interview. "Now I would say the Republican Party is more the big-tent party on some of these issues."

Continued on next page

First stone laid for Stichting Hunto



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Continued from Front

Of course, supporters of abortion rights are now a distinct minority in Republican politics. Just two GOP members of Congress — Sens. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska and Susan Collins of Maine — publicly support passing legislation to reinstate the protections of a woman's right to choose that the Supreme Court struck down in overruling *Roe v. Wade*. In Colorado, U.S. Senate candidate Joe O'Dea is the rare Republican running this year who backs codifying *Roe*.

But the debate over even a limited set of circumstances in which abortion could be legal spurred some division within the GOP in Wisconsin and elsewhere.

In Indiana, after a decade of stalled legislation on abortion, empowered Republicans passed the first near-total abortion ban since the Supreme Court ruling. But even that measure drew dissent within the GOP. Exemptions for rape and incest up to 10 weeks prevailed after 50 Republicans joined with all Democrats to include them.

Still, 18 Republicans voted against final passage of the bill, with roughly half saying the bill went too far and the rest saying it was too weak. In South Carolina, meanwhile, Republicans have spent decades curtailing abortion access and there is ongoing discussion about a near-total ban. But some in the legislature voiced concern about pushing the current six-week ban further and urged deceleration, particularly after seeing voters in Kansas spike a ballot measure that would have allowed the legislature there to ban abortion. "It's like you are playing with live ammunition right now," Republican Rep. Tom Davis told The Associated Press. The Supreme Court ruling paved the way for severe abortion restrictions or bans in nearly half the states. Nine states currently have laws banning abortion from conception, with three more — Tennessee, Idaho and Texas — set to take effect on Aug. 25. Three states — Georgia, South Carolina and Ohio — have laws banning abortion



Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers addresses a joint session of the Legislature in the Assembly chambers during the governor's State of the State speech at the state Capitol Feb. 15, 2022, in Madison, Wis. Behind Evers is Assembly Speaker Robin Vos, left, R-Rochester, and Senate President Chris Kapenga, R-Delafield.

Associated Press

when fetal cardiac activity is detected, at about six weeks. Florida's law bans abortion at 15 weeks, and Arizona's will as of Sep. 24. Some experts say the inconsistency among Republicans about how to move forward underscores how new the debate is — and how unprepared the party was for it.

"Historically, GOP candidates and policy makers were in a politically convenient spot when it came to being 'pro-life,'" University of Denver political science professor Joshua Wilson told the AP in an email. Until *Roe* was overturned, Republican-controlled states could introduce legislation to dismantle abortion access, knowing that federal courts bound by the law at the time would block the most aggressive regulations. That and the issue's lower salience among Democratic and moderate voters, Wilson noted, "were linked guardrails against political backlash."

The rejected ballot measure in Kansas surprised advocates on both sides, not only because it was defeated by a 20-percentage-point margin but also because turnout surged, driven by voters who weren't participating

in the Republican primary. Prioritization of abortion and women's rights is growing among abortion rights supporters, and Democrats are seeking to capitalize on the shift by campaigning on the issue and pushing for ballot measures in other states. Polling shows the most extreme anti-abortion laws are at odds with the American public and even most Republicans.

The July AP-NORC poll showed Republicans are largely opposed to abortion "for any reason" and at 15 weeks into a pregnancy. But only 16% of Republicans say abortion generally should be "illegal in all cases."

Most Republicans said their state should generally allow a pregnant person to obtain a legal abortion if the child would be born with a life-threatening illness (61%), the person became pregnant as the result of rape or incest (77%) or if the person's health is seriously endangered (85%).

A majority of Republicans, 56%, also said their state should generally allow abortion at six weeks into a pregnancy.

GOP politicians may begin to face pressure to satisfy their base's most conser-

vative anti-abortion opponents — they want total abortion bans — and the moderate or independent voter, who is more accepting of abortion at early points in the pregnancy and in extenuating circumstances.

That's led some candidates to pivot from hard-line positions in their primaries to more diffuse rhetoric ahead of their general election in purple states. In Arizona, the Republican candidate for governor, Kari Lake, who said during the primary that "abortion is the ultimate sin" and abortion pills should be outlawed, punted to the Legislature when asked about the specifics of abortion policy after she won.

When he was running to be Georgia Republicans' nominee for the U.S. Senate, Herschel Walker was unequivocal in his support for an outright abortion ban with no exceptions. Now that he is the nominee running in a tight general election contest, he's more circumspect. When asked plainly whether he'd vote for an absolute prohibition in a Republican-controlled Senate, Walker demurred. "That's an 'if,'" Walker said, telling reporters he won't entertain such a hypotheti-

cal scenario "right now."

Back in Wisconsin, Evers, who is up for reelection this year, has consistently vetoed anti-abortion legislation brought forth in recent years by the Republican legislature. The Republican candidate for governor, Tim Michels, who won the Republican primary last week, said during his campaign that the state's 1849 law is "an exact mirror" of his position; he doesn't support exceptions for rape or incest.

The July AP-NORC poll showed 55% of moderate and liberal Republicans said abortion in general should be legal in all or most cases and 39% said abortion should be illegal in most cases. Just 5% said abortion should be illegal in all cases.

But even among conservative Republicans, only 24% say abortion should be illegal in all cases; 60% of conservative Republicans said abortion should be illegal in most cases.

The subject is increasingly the focus of ads for Democratic candidates for the U.S. House and Senate this summer, while it's tapered off in ads for Republican candidates, according to analysis by the Wesleyan Media Project. Democrats are painting Republicans as extreme on abortion, hoping to see the issue win over voters in the midterm elections.

"If we want to be relevant to the debate, there's got to be some negotiation. If we draw a hard line, we may be on the outside looking in in legislative chambers and in Congress," said Republican strategist Jason Roe.

Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America President Marjorie Dannenfelser said the overturning of *Roe* democratizes the process of regulating abortion and it's up to each state to come to a consensus "where it's very likely that the true believers on both sides will not get what they want," she said. Still, to Dannenfelser, "every single law that's passed is a gain for the pro-life movement because for almost 50 years, we had nothing," she said. "It's more than we had, and so that's how I look at it." □

Trump executive pleads guilty in tax case, agrees to testify

NEW YORK (AP) — A top executive at former President Donald Trump's family business pleaded guilty Thursday to evading taxes on a free apartment and other perks, striking a deal with prosecutors that could make him a star witness against the company at a trial this fall.

Allen Weisselberg, a senior Trump Organization adviser and formerly the company's longtime chief financial officer, pleaded guilty to all 15 of the charges he faced in the case.

In a low, somewhat hoarse voice, Weisselberg admitted taking in over \$1.7 million worth of untaxed extras — including school tuition for his grandchildren, free rent for a Manhattan apartment and lease payments for a luxury car — and explicitly keeping some of the plums off the books.

Judge Juan Manuel Merchan agreed to sentence the 75-year-old executive to five months in New York City's Rikers Island jail complex, although he will be eligible for release after little more than three months if he behaves behind bars. The judge said Weisselberg will have to pay nearly \$2



The Trump Organization's former accountant Allen Weisselberg, right, arrives in the courtroom, in New York, Thursday, Aug. 18, 2022.

million in taxes, penalties and interest and complete five years of probation.

The plea bargain also requires Weisselberg to testify truthfully as a prosecution witness when the Trump Organization goes on trial in October on related charges. The company is accused of helping Weisselberg and other executives avoid income taxes

by failing to report their full compensation accurately to the government. Trump himself is not charged in the case.

Weisselberg will remain free on bail until he is formally sentenced following the company's trial. He said nothing as he left court, offering no reply when a journalist asked whether he had any message for

Trump. If Weisselberg fails to comply with the plea terms, prosecutors said they would seek a "significant state prison sentence," and Merchan warned that he could be subject to the maximum punishment for the top charge — grand larceny — of 15 years.

Weisselberg's lawyer Nicholas Gravante Jr. said his client pleaded guilty "to put

an end to this case and the years-long legal and personal nightmares it has caused for him and his family."

Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg said in a statement that Weisselberg's plea "directly implicates the Trump Organization in a wide range of criminal activity and requires Weisselberg to provide invaluable testimony in the upcoming trial against the corporation."

"We look forward to proving our case in court against the Trump Organization," he added.

Testimony by Weisselberg could weaken the company's defense. If convicted, the company could face fines of double the amount of unpaid taxes or potentially be placed on probation and forced to change its business practices.

The company praised Weisselberg on Thursday as a trusted, honorable employee who it said has been "persecuted and threatened by law enforcement, particularly the Manhattan district attorney, in their never-ending, politically motivated quest to get President Trump." □

Associated Press

RFK Jr.'s anti-vaccine group kicked off Instagram, Facebook

By DAVID KLEPPER
Associated Press

Instagram and Facebook suspended Children's Health Defense this week after the anti-vaccine group led by Robert Kennedy Jr. repeatedly violated rules prohibiting misinformation about COVID-19. Public A nonprofit, Children's Health Defense is one of the most influential anti-vaccine organizations active on social media, where it has spread misleading claims about vaccines and other public health measures designed to control the pandemic. In a statement, Kennedy compared Facebook's actions to government censorship, even though Facebook is a private company that can set and enforce its own rules about misinformation.

"Facebook is acting here as a surrogate for the federal government's crusade to silence all criticism of draconian government policies," Kennedy said.

Children's Health Defense had hundreds of thousands of followers at the time of the suspension, according to a statement from the organization, which also noted that it has sued Facebook over its moderation policies.

health advocates and misinformation experts have criticized Facebook for not acting more swiftly to contain potentially harmful misinformation about COVID-19 and vaccines.

Karen Kornbluh, director of the Digital Innovation and Democracy Initiative at the German Marshall Fund, said too many groups like Children's Health Defense have

been allowed to flourish on social media for too long. She noted that the group remains on Twitter.

"Today's step is too late and too little," Kornbluh said, adding that tech companies must address the reasons misinformation spreads so readily on social media.

Facebook and Instagram confirmed the company action on Thursday in a statement to The Associated Press.

"We removed these accounts for repeatedly violating our policies," a spokesman for Meta, Facebook and Instagram's parent company, told the AP. Under the platforms' policies, suspensions are typically only enforced after multiple violations.

Several state affiliates of Children's Health Defense



Attorney Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. speaks after a hearing challenging the constitutionality of the state legislature's repeal of the religious exemption to vaccination on behalf of New York state families who held lawful religious exemptions, during a rally outside the Albany County Courthouse Aug. 14, 2019, in Albany, N.Y.

Associated Press

remain on Facebook and Instagram despite the ban of the national organization.

Kennedy was kicked off Instagram last year but continues to keep an active account on Facebook. □

Brain-eating amoeba suspected in 2nd Midwest death

By **MARGERY A. BECK and JOSH FUNK**

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A child likely died from a rare infection caused by a brain-eating amoeba after swimming in an eastern Nebraska river, health officials said, making it the second such probable death in the Midwest this summer and raising the question of whether climate change is playing a role.

The Douglas County Department of Health based in Omaha, Nebraska, reported Wednesday that doctors believe the child died of primary amebic meningoencephalitis, a usually fatal infection caused by the *naegleria fowleri* amoeba. Health officials believe the child came into contact with the amoeba on Sunday while swimming in the Elkhorn River just west of Omaha.

Officials have not released the child's identity.

Last month, a Missouri resident died of the same infection likely caused by the amoeba at Lake of Three Fires in southwestern Iowa. Iowa officials closed the



The Elkhorn River, just west of Omaha, Neb., is pictured on Thursday, Aug. 18, 2022.

Associated Press

lake's beach as a precaution for nearly three weeks. People are usually infected when water containing the amoeba enters the body through the nose while swimming or diving into lakes and rivers. Other sources have been docu-

mented, including tainted tap water in a Houston-area city in 2020. Symptoms include fever, headache, nausea or vomiting, progressing to a stiff neck, loss of balance, hallucinations and seizures.

The Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention says *naegleria fowleri* infections are rare — there are about three cases in the United States every year — but that those infections are overwhelmingly fatal. There were 154 cases reported between 1962 and

2021 in the U.S., with only four survivors, according to the CDC. Of those, 71 cases were reported between 2000 and 2021. Texas and Florida recorded the most infections with 39 and 37 cases respectively, and the amoeba is typically found in southern states because it thrives in waters that are warmer than 86 degrees Fahrenheit (30 Celsius).

But infections have migrated north in recent years, including two cases in Minnesota since 2010, Douglas County Health Director Dr. Lindsey Huse noted during a news conference Thursday.

"Our regions are becoming warmer," she said. "As things warm up, the water warms up and water levels drop because of drought, you see that this organism is a lot happier and more typically grows in those situations."

According to the National Water Information System, the surface water temperature near where the child was swimming was between 86 and 92 degrees. □

Starbucks must reinstate fired workers, federal judge rules



A group of fired Starbucks employees celebrate the result of a vote to unionize one of the coffee company's locations on June 7, 2022, in Memphis, Tenn.

Associated Press

By **DEE-ANN DURBIN and ADRIAN SAINZ**

Associated Press Writers
MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — A federal judge is ordering Starbucks to reinstate seven employees in Memphis who were fired earlier this year after leading an effort

to unionize their store.

In a decision issued Thursday, U.S. District Judge Sheryl Lipman agreed with the National Labor Relations Board, which had asked the court to intervene in May. The labor board said Starbucks violated U.S. la-

bor law by interfering in workers' right to organize.

Lipman's decision requires Starbucks to offer to reinstate the employees within five days. Starbucks will also be required to post the court order in the Memphis store.

Starbucks said Thursday it strongly disagrees with the court order and will appeal. It will also request a stay of the opinion, which would delay the reinstatement of the employees while the appeal is considered.

The case has been among the most closely watched in the unionization effort at Starbucks.

Since late last year, more than 220 U.S. Starbucks stores — including the Memphis store — have voted to unionize. Starbucks opposes the unionization effort.

Starbucks fired the seven employees in early February, citing safety. The Se-

attle coffee giant said the employees violated company policy by reopening a store after closing time and inviting non-employees — including a television crew — to come inside and move throughout the store. "These individuals violated numerous policies and failed to maintain a secure work environment and safety standards," the company said in a statement Thursday. "Interest in a union does not exempt partners from following policies that are in place to protect partners, our customers and the communities we serve."

But the NLRB and the fired workers told the court that Starbucks had routinely tolerated off-duty employees and non-employees remaining in the store after hours to make drinks, collect belongings or assist each other.

"Such tolerance before

union activity, but terminations resulting thereafter, supports an inference of discriminatory motive," the judge wrote.

The NLRB had begun administrative proceedings against Starbucks, saying the company was unlawfully interfering in workers' right to organize. But those proceedings can take so long that the NLRB asked the federal court for an immediate injunction requiring Starbucks to reinstate the workers.

"Today's federal court decision ordering Starbucks to reinstate the seven unlawfully fired Starbucks workers in Memphis is a crucial step in ensuring that these workers, and all Starbucks workers, can freely exercise their right to join together to improve their working conditions and form a union," the labor board's General Counsel Jennifer Abruzzo said in a statement. □

Puerto Rico governor denounces power company amid outages

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)

— Puerto Rico's governor on Thursday denounced the private company his administration contracted to take over the island's power transmission and distribution system amid a recent spike in electricity outages that have outraged many in the U.S. territory.

It is the first time Gov. Pedro Pierluisi has publicly criticized Luma Energy, a consortium made up of Calgary, Alberta-based Atco and Quanta Services Inc. of Houston, despite street protests and calls on social media for Pierluisi to cancel Luma's 15-year contract that began in June 2021.

"I am not satisfied with the performance of Luma," said Pierluisi, who previously had defended and praised the company. "It is obvious to me that you have to make changes to your execution plan to significantly improve the service you are offering our people."

Hours later, Luma officials held a press conference where they said progress has been made and said the neglect and mismanagement that occurred under Puerto Rico's Electric Power Authority, which is trying to restructure more than \$9 billion in debt, are



Puerto Rico's Gov. Pedro Pierluisi speaks during a press conference at La Fortaleza in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Aug. 6, 2019.

Associated Press

not going to be fixed in a year.

"We recognize and acknowledge that there are significant challenges that remain to be addressed," said CEO Wayne Stensby. "I know that the people of Puerto Rico are tired of excuses and the constant blaming of someone else." Luma's roughly 1.5 million clients have been hit by power outages that have worsened in recent months and have forced some businesses to close since

they cannot afford to run generators on expensive fuel. One of Puerto Rico's largest hospitals was left without power last week when one of its generators failed in the middle of an outage.

Luma and Puerto Rico's Electric Power Authority have blamed aging infrastructure, lack of maintenance, bad weather, sargassum and even an iguana for the blackouts. Officials also stress they're working with a system just

now being rebuilt after Hurricane Maria razed the U.S. territory's power grid in September 2017.

Pierluisi said that was not an excuse.

"Although I recognize that the electrical network we have is fragile and obsolete, it is Luma's responsibility to operate it under the critical and emergency state in which it finds itself," he said.

Stensby said his company has repaired some 3,800 electric posts, replaced

10,000 streetlights that had remained dark since Maria and launched 209 post-hurricane projects with federal funds, 14 of which are under construction. Luma officials also said there have been 30% fewer power outages this year than last year.

But fires at substations have become increasingly common, and Puerto Ricans have posted social media videos of crackling and sizzling equipment, as well as pictures of what they say are absurdly high power bills. Seven electricity rate increases requested by Luma have been approved by Puerto Rico's Energy Bureau this year alone.

"There is no governmental action to address these problems," said José Luis Dalmau, president of Puerto Rico's Senate and a member of the main opposition party. "It's unacceptable that in the face of this chaos, the governor is alienated from the reality that people are experiencing."

Puerto Rico's Energy Bureau announced an investigation into a power outage Wednesday that affected some 250,000 clients and led to a 25% loss in overall energy generated. □

WHO: World coronavirus cases fall 24%; deaths rise in Asia

LONDON (AP) — New coronavirus cases reported globally dropped nearly a quarter in the last week while deaths fell 6% but were still higher in parts of Asia, according to a report Thursday on the pandemic by the World Health Organization.

The U.N. health agency said there were 5.4 million new COVID-19 cases reported last week, a decline of 24% from the previous week. Infections fell everywhere in the world, including by nearly 40% in Africa and Europe and by a third in the Middle East. COVID deaths rose in the Western Pacific and Southeast Asia by 31% and 12% respectively, but fell or remained stable everywhere else.

At a press briefing Wednesday,

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said reported coronavirus deaths over the past month have surged 35%, and noted there had been 15,000 deaths in the past week.

"15,000 deaths a week is completely unacceptable, when we have all the tools to prevent infections and save lives," Tedros said. He said the number of virus sequences shared every week has plummeted 90%, making it extremely difficult for scientists to monitor how COVID-19 might be mutating.

"But none of us is helpless," Tedros said. "Please get vaccinated if you are not, and if you need a booster, get one."

On Thursday, WHO's vac-

cine advisory group recommended for the first time that people most vulnerable to COVID-19, including older people, those with underlying health conditions and health workers, get a second booster shot. Numerous other health agencies and countries made the same recommendation months ago.

The expert group also said it had evaluated data from the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines for younger people and said children and teenagers were in the lowest priority group for vaccination, since they are far less likely to get severe disease.

Joachim Hombach, who sits on WHO's vaccine expert group, said it was also uncertain whether the ex-



Residents wearing face masks wait in line to get their routine COVID-19 throat swabs at a coronavirus testing site in Beijing, Wednesday, Aug. 17, 2022.

Associated Press

perts would endorse widespread boosters for the general population or new combination vaccines that target the omicron variant. "We need to see what the

data will tell us and we need to see actually (what) will be the advantage of these vaccines that comprise an (omicron) strain," he said. □

Police: Death toll in Afghan capital mosque bombing now 21

By **RAHIM FAIEZ** and **EBRAHIM NOROOZI**

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) —

A bombing at a mosque in the Afghan capital of Kabul during evening prayers killed at least 21 people, including a prominent cleric, and wounded at least 33 others, eyewitnesses and police said Thursday.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack on Wednesday night, the latest to strike the country in the year since the Taliban seized power. Several children were reported to be among the wounded.

The Islamic State group's local affiliate has stepped up attacks against the Taliban and civilians since the former insurgents took over the country last year as U.S. and NATO troops were in the final stages of their withdrawal. Last week, the extremists claimed responsibility for killing a prominent Taliban cleric at his religious center in Kabul.

The mosque bombing comes just two days after the anniversary of the fall of Kabul on Aug. 15, 2021. Khalid Zadran, the spokes-



Mourners carry the body of a victim of a mosque bombing in Kabul, Afghanistan, Thursday, Aug. 18, 2022.

Associated Press

man for Kabul's Taliban police chief, gave the latest figures to The Associated Press for the bombing at the Siddiquiya mosque in the city's Kher Khanna neighborhood. An eyewitness told the AP the explosion was carried out by a suicide bomber.

The slain cleric was Mullah Amir Mohammad Kabuli, the eyewitness said, speak-

ing on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the media.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid condemned the explosion and vowed that the "perpetrators of such crimes will soon be brought to justice and will be punished."

There were fears the casualty numbers could rise

further. On Thursday morning, one witness to the blast who gave his name as Qyaamuddin told the AP he believed as many as 25 people may have been killed in the blast.

"It was evening prayer time, and I was attending the prayer with others, when the explosion happened," Qyaamuddin said. Some Afghans go by

a single name.

AP journalists could see the blue-roofed, Sunni mosque from a nearby hillside. The Taliban parked police trucks and other vehicles at the mosque, while several men carried out one casket for a victim of the attack.

During their previous, 1996-2001 rule of Afghanistan, the Taliban imposed their harsh interpretation of Islamic laws, severely restricting individual freedoms and especially the rights of women. A U.S.-led invasion toppled the Taliban, who had also hosted al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden, following the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in the United States.

Since regaining power, the former insurgents have faced a crippling economic crisis as the international community, which does not recognize the Taliban government, froze funding to the country. On Thursday, the Taliban hosted a gathering of 3,000 tribal elders, religious scholars and others in Kandahar, their state-run Bakhtar News Agency reported. □



Myanmar's leader Aung San Suu Kyi waits to address judges of the International Court of Justice in The Hague, Netherlands, Dec. 11, 2019.

Associated Press

By **GRANT PECK**
Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — Ousted Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi testified Thursday in a prison courtroom in the capital for the first time in her official secrets case, a legal official said.

Suu Kyi, who has been detained since the military ousted her government last year, is being tried in Naypyitaw with Australian

economist Sean Turnell and three former Cabinet members on the same charge, which is punishable by up to 14 years in prison.

Suu Kyi denied all the accusations in the case against her and pleaded not guilty, said the legal official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he is not authorized to release information.

Sean Turnell, an economist

Myanmar's Suu Kyi testifies in her official secrets case

at Sydney's Macquarie University, was an adviser to Suu Kyi.

The colonial-era secrets statute criminalizes the possession, collection, recording, publishing or sharing of state information that is "directly or indirectly, useful to an enemy."

The exact details of the alleged offense in the case have not been made public, though Myanmar state television, citing government statements, said last year that Turnell had access to "secret state financial information" and had tried to flee the country.

Suu Kyi was sentenced Monday to six years in prison on four corruption charges.

She earlier was sentenced to 11 years in prison after being convicted on charges of illegally importing and

possessing walkie-talkies, violating coronavirus restrictions, sedition and another a corruption charge, bringing her total prison term to 17 years. Trials on several other charges are ongoing. Suu Kyi's supporters and independent analysts say the charges are politically motivated and are an attempt to discredit her and legitimize the military's seizure of power while keeping her from returning to politics.

Details of Thursday's proceedings were not available because Suu Kyi's lawyers have been banned by a gag order since last year from revealing information about her trials, all of which are closed to the media and the public.

The legal official said Suu Kyi appeared to be in good health.

Another co-defendant, former Union Minister Kyaw Win, is scheduled to testify next week.

Turnell testified last week, also denying the accusations against him. He and Suu Kyi are both being held in the prison where the trial is being conducted in a special courtroom.

Suu Kyi is also being tried there on an election fraud charge, which is punishable by up to three years in prison, and seven counts of corruption which each carry a maximum sentence of 15 years and a fine.

The army's takeover last year was met with nationwide peaceful protests. After security forces unleashed lethal force against the protesters, some opponents of military rule turned to armed resistance in many areas. □

Prime minister Evelyn Wever-Croes: Eliminating the problem of homeless addicts is a big contribution to Aruba's development



This week during a press conference of the government of Aruba, minister of Justice and Social Affairs, Rocco Tjon announced that last friday, during the meeting of the Council of Ministers, a sum of Afl. 600,000

was approved for a project to give attention to homeless addicts.

According to a press release, this will be a big achievement in giving the problem of homeless ad-

dicts the attention it requires.

Wever-Croes expressed satisfaction for this achievement, because she said this problem will receive the attention it deserves in a

lasting manner. With the funds received, 5 capable people will be employed, who will dedicate to this project exclusively. These 5 professionals will be responsible for approaching the homeless addicts and to make sure each of them is placed in one of the reception centers, thus eliminating the nuisance the addicts cause on the streets, particularly in the city centre.

Changes in infrastructure will also be done, in order to place these clients and give them their due care. As minister Tjon indicated, in the beginning the project will make use of the center in Meiveld, but the plan was also allocated Afl. 100,000 to renovate four rooms in Centro Colorado. Once these rooms are

ready, there will be a total of between 16 to 24 beds available where these addicts can receive professional help and care. Attention will also be given to every other need these clients might have once they are taken off the streets. For this, all materials will be available in order to effectively provide for them.

Prime minister Wever-Croes thanked Minister Rocco Tjon and his whole team for their dedication and work for this achievement. Eliminating the problem of homeless addicts, particularly in the city centre, is an enormous contribution to the economic development of Aruba, seeing the sentiment of safety that this will create in each citizen and visitor of our country, Wever-Croes said.

First stone laid for Stichting Hunto

ORANJESTAD – Wednesday morning was a very important day for the community of Aruba, when the first stone was laid for Stichting Hunto (Together Foundation). This centre will provide care to people who have problems with mental health, including homeless addicts.

Minister of Public Health, Mr. Dangui Oduber was the one who started with the idea to add care for people suffering from addiction together with people with mental health problems under one roof.

In May 2019 a new supervisory board was appointed for the Foundation for the Management of Addiction in Aruba, FMAA. In October 2020, an MoU was signed between FMAA and SPD (Department of Social Psychiatry) with the intention to join these instances.

This foundation will help many families who have members suffering from mental health issues. It will help with rehabilitation in order to reintegrate them into our society. Each of these people will once again contribute to Aruba's economy. The work was not easy; many stakeholders had to be convinced in order to achieve this.

Minister Oduber thanked and congratulated his colleague, minister of Justice and Social Affairs, Mr. Rocco Tjon who continued and finalized this very important project. This is also the first new infrastructure in 25 years dedicated especially to homeless addicts.

Minister Oduber also thanked SPD, FMAA, DVG, FADA, HAVA, Respaldo, stuurgroep GGZ and

all stakeholders for believing in this project and making it a reality.





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Some of Peru's Best Flavors are Firing up Palm Beach, Thanks to New Pop-Up Restaurant Blu Bar



PALM BEACH, ARUBA – Radisson Blu Aruba, located in Palm Beach, celebrated the soft opening of its new Peruvian pop-up restaurant last week. The unique and stylish Blu Bar: A Peruvian-inspired restaurant that offers everything that you love about Peruvian fusion cuisine, but with a modern twist.

Diners can expect to find many seafood-centric dishes including popular Peruvian eats such as Ceviches and Tiraditos. Some of the highlights from the dinner menu include mouthwatering dishes such as the team's favorite: cowboy pork glazed with blackberries jam served with 'fufu', local fish on a sugar

snap peas puree, NY strip with Peruvian chimichurri, and 8 hours slow-cooked beef brisket; all dishes enhanced by a modern twist on flavors and presentation. The Executive chef and his team are clearly dedicated to making you come back presenting you tasty appetizers or full entrée offerings.

As for libations, the beverage team built an equal innovative menu with a detailed selection of stunning wines and signature cocktails to pair with each dish.

The next hot spot in Palm Beach
The pop-up is the only spot for Peruvian



dining in Palm Beach and offers both indoor dining with panoramic floor to ceiling windows, and outdoor seating with a picturesque view of the resort's luxurious pool and lush gardens. The upscale atmosphere, rich in original architectural details absolute perfect location for dining with loved ones, clients, and business associates. At night, the restaurant's chic bar is a lively place to gather with friends for cocktails and cozy vibes.

One thing must be said: the hotel's staff makes a difference. Real smiles, real attention and real enthusiasm is what you encounter. Here we are experiencing something new, and a new place has new vibes, for you to discover. Radisson Blu Aruba invites locals and visitors alike to enjoy a Peruvian culinary experience they will never forget. Located in the heart of Radisson Blu Aruba, Blu Bar is open daily from 5PM to 11PM.

Unwind with local prices and a singing angel

Blu Bar offers a nice selection of wines and each Wednesday you will only pay in Florins. The Dollar to Florin deals – 44% discount – on wine bottles start from 5PM every Wednesday. Now it gets even better because from 7PM you can enjoy the amazing voice of local singer Amy Sorinio. The all-round performer has a unique voice and a great energy. She easily connects with her public and enchants you with jazz, easy listening, pop, soul, Latin... name a style and she can do it. Her passion led her travelling all around the world and you will feel her experience and genuine love for music.

Reservations are not required, and walk-ins are welcome. Go and find out why Blu Bar is the next hotspot for a bite, a drink or more. ☐



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Honoring of loyal visitors at Caribbean Palm Village Resort

EAGLE BEACH □ Recently, Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure in honoring many loyal Aruba visitors with their distinctive certificates. These certificates are a way to say "Masha Danki" for continuously choosing Aruba as a favorite vacation destination. The titles are as following: 10+ years "Distinguished Visitor", 20+ years "Goodwill Ambassador" and 36+ years "Emerald Ambassador".

The honorees were Bruce and Joan Herman, resi-

dents of Massachusetts, United States who were honored as Emerald Ambassadors of Aruba.

This symbolic honorary title is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba between the 10-20-35 and more consecutive year mark.

The visitors named the beautiful beach, great weather, friendly Arubans, good restaurants and happy hour as their top reasons

for returning to the island.

Mr. Jonathan Boekhoudt and Ms. Olga Ruiz representing the Aruba Tourism Authority and members of Caribbean Palm Village Resort bestowed the certificate of the Ambassadors and handed some presents to the honorees and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their vacation destination and as their home away from home for so many years on behalf of the Government of Aruba. □



Honoring of loyal visitors at Marriott Aruba Surf Club

EAGLE BEACH - Recently, Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure in honoring many loyal Aruba visitors with their distinctive certificates. These certificates are a way to say "Masha Danki" for continuously choosing Aruba as a favorite vacation destination. The titles are as following: 10+ years "Distinguished Visitor", 20+ years "Goodwill Ambassador" and 36+ years "Emerald Ambassador".

The honoree was **Josephine Tutela**, resident of New Jersey, United States who was honored as a Goodwill Ambassador of Aruba.

This symbolic honorary title is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba



between the 10-20-35 and more consecutive year mark.

The visitors named the beautiful beach, wonderful weather, friendliness of the Aruban people, extraordinary restaurants and family vacation atmosphere as their top reasons for returning to the island.

Ms. Kimberly Richardson

and Ms. Olga Ruiz representing the Aruba Tourism Authority and members of Marriott Aruba Surf Club bestowed the certificate of the Ambassador and handed some presents to the honoree and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their vacation destination and as their home away from home for so many years on behalf of the Government of Aruba. □

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Travellers' Choice 2020

Lui bee farm Aruba

ORANJESTAD — Honey bees wild and domestic perform about 80 percent of all pollination world-wide. A single bee colony can pollinate 300 million flowers each day. Grains are primarily pollinated by the wind, but fruits, nuts and vegetables are pollinated by bees. Seventy out of the top 100 human food crops — which supply about 90 percent of the world's nutrition — are pollinated by bees.

Seeing the importance of saving the bees Aruba is not staying behind. We have many people interested in saving and protecting these bees. Many are practicing Apiculture which consists of saving and protecting the bees with the sole purpose to produce honey locally. One of these persons is the very well-known on the island Mr. Luis Winterdaal, founder of Lui Bee Farm Aruba.

Luis Winterdaal was born and raised in Aruba on October 10th 1954 in the city of Savaneta. A person with great love for the nature

and all animals. Luis started working with bees when he was only 15 years old. At that time there were no special equipment to use when working with bees such as face masks and smokers. Luis used to make his own face protection equipment from wired screens sewed to a t-shirt. He also cut out the legs of his jeans to use them to protect his arms and as smoker he used cookie cans.

11 Years ago Luis met 3 young people who love bees and saw the importance that these bees have for the humanity. Giles, Jourdan and Suyen. With much passion and all the patience in the world Luis taught these 3 youngsters everything they needed to know about bees. From there started the idea of the farm. To save and protect these bees. They all try to demonstrate and teach the people of Aruba the importance these bees have. Their vision is to save as much bees as possible from being killed. For more than 45 years Luis has been helping our people of Aruba to solve any type of bee problems



at their homes. Luis together with Giles, Jourdan and Suyen have been all over the island bringing their passion and knowledge in order to save these bees.

Organic honey:

At Lui Bee farm Aruba they have special bee boxes which are filled with bees that were rescued from different houses and locations all around the island. Not always when rescuing bees you will find honey. Sometimes you will find the wax with only baby bees and if you are lucky you will find wax filled with honey.

The honey from the boxes at their location are not being emptied every time why? Because of the lack of rain on the island, most of the time it's very dry and this can be very stressful for the bees. Why the stress? Because they have to make new wax and also in such dry period they use honey to feed themselves to survive.

Honey that they produce and sell at their farm does not contain any chemicals. Their honey goes directly from the wax to the bottles. The whole process takes place at their own facility. They encounter all types of color of honey on the island from light to black honey. Since they depend very much on the water/rain for these bees to survive the production of see is not consistent. Lui Bee Farm wishes to someday be able to produce enough honey to distribute to the

whole island. Honey is very beneficial for your overall health and is very important for the human being. Honey products are daily used for as medicine and in many beauty products.

Most of the time bees rescued from houses are in swarm or have been there for years. Common places to find bees are: under the roof, on the roof, ceiling, in trees, in fires, on the walls, bird cages, under containers even in septic tanks anywhere you can think of is possible. They have even been called several times at hotels to remove hives from a bedroom or from the rooftop.

At Lui Bee Farm they know how important these bees are for our environment therefore when assisting at removing these hives they will stay there until they find the 'queen'. Who naturally is the most important for the production of the honey. Whenever they find her their job is done.

According to Luis bees in Aruba are not aggressive. If you leave them alone and don't disturb them they won't attack you. Therefore Lui Bee Farm kindly requests you to help the bees by putting water around the house. Especially during dry seasons. These bees need as much flowers and water as possible in order to survive. Please do not kill them!! To Lui Bee Farm a world without bees is like a dessert without food!! ☐



Tribute to Etty Toppenberg: Etty loved his country of Aruba and his neighborhood of Companashi

Recently, a big celebration was held in order to pay tribute to an exemplary Aruban citizen, Etty Toppenberg. During her speech at the event, minister of Culture, Xiomara Maduro, said how "Etty loves his neighborhood of Companashi, the neighborhood that saw his birth, say him grow and develop into one of the biggest talents in our country."

Etty is very proud of his neighborhood, Companashi4ever and with pride, Etty writes on his Facebook page that Companashi, the smallest neighborhood in Aruba, received the most medals of merit from the Royal House.

As an artist of our country, Aruba, Etty won love and appreciation from us all. His trajectory in the musical world is impressive. Etty is going down in history as the first Aruban singer who presented our national anthem, "Aruba Dushi Tera" during the inaugural ceremony of our Status Aparte, when Aruba became a country, right after midnight on the 1st of January, 1986.

Etty, together with his friends Eric Escalona and Max Hassel, formed the popular 'Trio Huasteca', and together with this Trio, Etty let his voice, and the name of Aruba, resound twice in the prestigious Festival OTI de la Cancion, an achievement of which Aruba is still proud today.

Etty and Trio Huasteca was one of the pioneers in tourism, working very hard to promote Aruba abroad. Also Trio Huasteca used to receive a lot of invitations, local and international, to delight the public with their songs and music. This is how Etty represented our country of Aruba many times abroad, singing and entertaining while at the same time promoting our beautiful country.

Etty received various awards, prizes and decorations. Another point on which the minister of Culture elaborated during her speech was that Etty received various awards, prizes and decorations. For Etty's extremely valuable contribution on the cultural field, he received a lot of awards and decorations. It's no secret that his voice and music is well liked by, and moves, members of the Dutch Royal Household.

Recently, Etty's song 'Nos Isla' (Our Island) was heard in the park Magic Kingdom in Orlando, Florida, when Massive Brassband International played for the first time at this park. This brassband paid a beautiful tribute to Etty by presenting his song.

Minister Maduro expressed that as Arubans, our heart fills with pride when we hear this song presented by an Aruban brassband, playing an Aruban's song.



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

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8-19

A X Y D L B A A X R
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

8-19

CRYPTOQUOTE

Z G F D I S X H I N I L A L A X D

U T D D U L N I L T N R T L Q V L

— N I Z J L N Y L Z Q L

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: SUMMER HAS A FLAVOR LIKE NO OTHER. ALWAYS FRESH AND SIMMERED IN SUNSHINE. — OPRAH WINFREY

Gas-powered muscle cars drive into the sunset, turn electric



The Dodge Charger Daytona SRT concept is unveiled, Wednesday, Aug. 17, 2022, in Pontiac, Mich.

Associated Press

By TOM KRISHER

AP Auto Writer

PONTIAC, Mich. (AP) —

Thundering gas-powered muscle cars, for decades a fixture of American culture, will be closing in on their final Saturday-night cruises in the coming years as automakers begin replacing them with super-fast cars that run on batteries.

Stellantis' Dodge brand, long the performance flag-bearer of the company formerly known as Fiat Chrysler, is officially moving toward electricity. On Wednesday night, Dodge unveiled a battery-powered Charger Daytona SRT concept car, which is close to one that will be produced in 2024 as the sun sets on some petroleum models.

Stellantis says it will stop making gasoline versions of the Dodge Challenger and Charger muscle cars and the Chrysler 300 large car by the end of next year. The Canadian factory that makes them will be converted to electric vehicles. Other automakers are moving — or have moved — in the same direction.

General Motors has said it will build an all-electric Chevrolet Corvette. Tesla says its Model S Plaid version is the fastest production vehicle made, able to go from zero to 60 mph (97 kilometers per hour) in under 2 seconds. Audi, Mercedes, Porsche and other European automakers already have high-performance electric models

on sale. And Polestar, an electric-performance spinoff from Volvo, just announced a new Polestar 6 roadster for 2026.

One reason for the industry shift is that electric vehicles are simply faster off the starting line. Their handling is typically better, too, because their heavy batteries create a low center of gravity.

Stricter government pollution requirements are another factor, too. As automakers in the U.S. face more stringent fuel-economy requirements adopted by the Biden administration and produce a broader range of EV vehicles, they will have to jettison some of their gas-fueled muscle-car models.

Tim Kuniskis, CEO of the Dodge brand, said the possibility of government fines for not meeting gas-mileage requirements hastened the shift to the electric Charger. "Compliance fines and things like that associated with a big cast-iron supercharged V8, yes, it's tough," he said.

Still, it will take a few years for the gas-powered classics to go away.

"Over the next several years, I think we'll continue to have some internal combustion stuff, probably through most of the decade," said Sam Abuelsamid, a research analyst at Guidehouse Insights. "But increasingly, the focus is going to be on the electric ones."

Under new gas-mileage

standards that were unveiled in April, the fleet of new vehicles will have to average around 40 miles per gallon in 2026, up from 25.4 mpg now, the EPA says. The standards are likely to become even stronger in the future, a trend that will compel U.S.-based automakers to shed some gasoline muscle cars if they are to avoid fines.

Of all major automakers, the EPA says, Stellantis had the lowest average fuel economy — 21.3 miles per gallon — and the highest average carbon dioxide emissions. So the company likely will have to eliminate some models to avoid fines. Its limited-edition Charger SRT Widebody, with a supercharged 6.2-liter Hemi Hellcat V-8, for instance, gets only 12 mpg in city driving and 21 mpg on the highway.

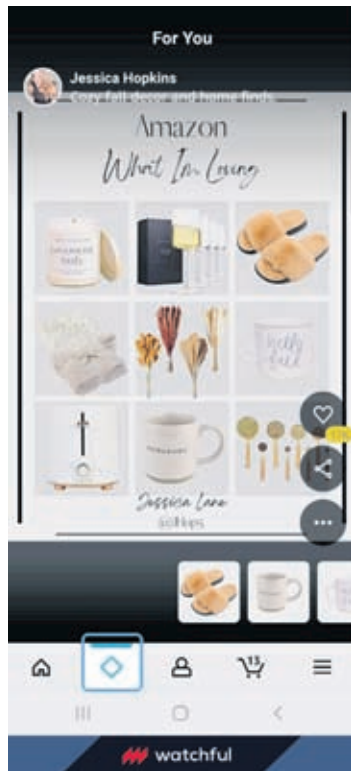
To many gearheads, the thought of a muscle car without noise and smells is heresy. But Kuniskis says Dodge is working hard to make the electric experience match internal combustion. The Charger, he said, will generate its own air flow to make an exhaust noise that rivals gas performance cars. And the transmission will shift gears.

When the electric Charger was driven through a garage door and entered a building Wednesday night at a racetrack in Pontiac, Michigan, it roared just like a gas muscle car.

Electric vehicles, Kuniskis said, have the potential to perform better than gas muscle cars with fast acceleration. But he said they are kind of sterile. "It doesn't have the emotion. It doesn't have the drama. It doesn't have the kind of dangerous feeling that ICE (an internal combustion engine) has when it's loud and rumbling and shifting and moving the car around." Kuniskis wouldn't say how fast the electric Charger will go from zero to 60 mph, but said it would be faster than the company's current petroleum performance cars. □

Amazon testing TikTok-style feed on its app, AI firm says

By HALELUYA HADERO
NEW YORK (AP) — Amazon appears to be getting the TikTok bug, joining other companies seeking to hold consumers' attention by introducing replicas of the popular social platform. The e-commerce giant has been testing a feed on its app that enables shoppers to scroll through TikTok-like photos and videos of products posted by other users. Using the feature, called Inspire, customers can like, save and share posts of products, and purchase items directly from the feed, according to Watchful Technologies, an Israeli-based artificial-intelligence firm that analyzes apps and has tracked the feature. The test doesn't mean Amazon will roll out the widget to the public in its current form or at all. Alyssa Bronikowski, an Amazon spokesperson, declined to say if the company has plans to introduce the feature to all its customers. In a statement, Bronikowski said the company is "constantly testing new features to help make customers'



This August 2022 screenshot provided by Watchful.ai shows a feed Amazon is testing on its app that enables shoppers to scroll through TikTok-like photos and videos of products posted by other users.

Associated Press

lives a little easier." The Wall Street Journal first reported on the test. Citing an anonymous source, the Journal also said the company is testing the feature among a small number of Amazon employees. Amazon often experiments with new features, sometimes even targeting its tests to specific regions. □

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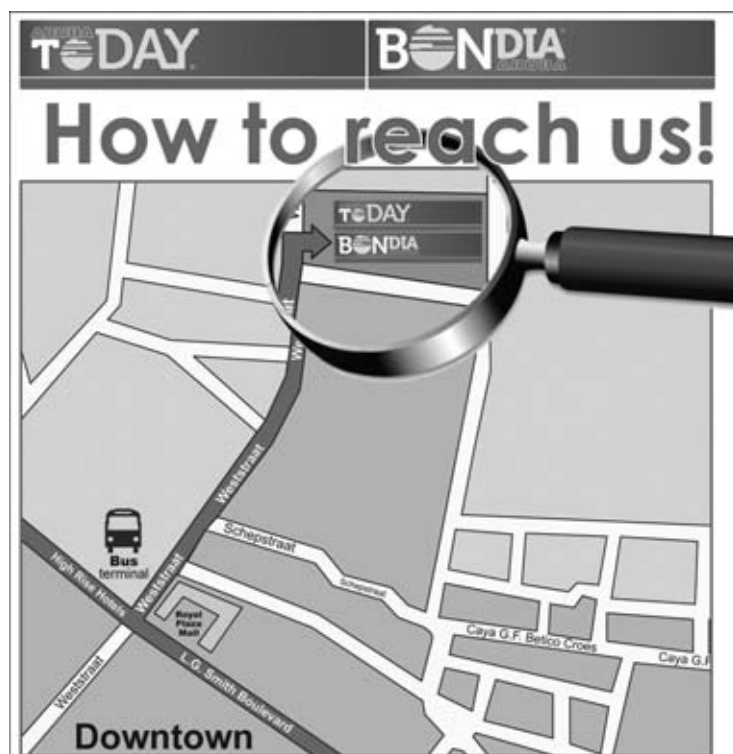
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Rock mag Creem attempts comeback after more than 30 years

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — Creem, which billed itself as “America’s only rock ‘n’ roll magazine” during two decades of existence that ended in 1989, is being revived next month.

The return is a remarkable story of persistence by J.J. Kramer, who was bequeathed the magazine at age 4 upon the death of his father, founder Barry Kramer. It will reappear during far different times, with a marketing plan that the late writer Lester Bangs or makers of the fake “Boy Howdy” beer could hardly conceive of.

The first new issue, a glossy quarterly, is due out in September and only available to people who spend \$79 for a subscription.

Founded in Detroit, Creem was the impish, slightly rude younger brother of Rolling Stone. The name was an intentional misspelling of the rock band Cream, one of the first editor’s favorites.

Though known best for Motown soul, Detroit was also a rock ‘n’ roll hotbed with artists like MC5, Iggy Pop, Alice Cooper, Mitch Ryder and Bob Seger. Hard rocking bands, and then the onslaught of punk, provided the magazine’s backbone in its 1970s heyday.

Creem was an incubator of writing talent like Dave Marsh, Robert Christgau, Lisa Robinson, Cameron Crowe and Greil Marcus.

Rock stars weren’t put on a pedestal in Creem,



This image shows the September 2022 issue of Creem.

Associated Press

and its reviews could be nasty along with sexist and profane. Bangs was the toughest, and his feud with Lou Reed was legendary. Creem poked fun at a stuffy Dewar’s scotch profiles ad campaign by picturing artists holding beer cans emblazoned with a “Boy Howdy” logo drawn by cartoonist Robert Crumb. In a 2019 documentary about the magazine, former R.E.M. singer Michael Stipe recalled first seeing Creem while in high school detention, realizing that he’d found the perfect gang of misfits.

“Buying Creem was a little bit like buying Playboy,” actor Jeff Daniels said in the documentary. “You didn’t want your parents seeing either one of them.”

Kramer’s death from a drug overdose in 1981 marked the beginning of the end. His son was named in the magazine’s masthead as a preschool “chairman of the board.” Barry Kramer’s widow, Connie, as publisher and acting on her son’s behalf because he was a minor, sold the bankrupt publication in 1985. Creem ceased publishing four years later.

With all the bravado of a 9-year-old, J.J. Kramer remembers telling his mother he would get it back some day.

“I’ve really spent most of my adult life trying to get to this point,” he told The Associated Press in advance of the revival. “It’s something I felt like I had to do. There’s a magnet that draws me

to Creem. It’s almost like it was predetermined in a way that I couldn’t fight it.” Kramer regained control of Creem, although it took several years. It helps that he’s an intellectual property attorney.

Now he’s chairman, again, and has put together a plan for the revival along with John Martin, a former Vice publisher who is CEO of Creem Entertainment. The idea is to make Creem the centerpiece of a media company that includes podcasts, merchandise and branded entertainment.

“Why is there not a Creemfest?” Martin asked. “That’s something that sounds like it should exist and it will exist.”

Yet it’s not the 1970s anymore. Rock ‘n’ roll is no longer as influential in culture as it once was; popular music is dominated by rap and pop. The music press is as diffuse as music itself. The well-made rock ‘n’ roll glossies on the market, like Mojo or Uncut, are British-based.

Kramer and Martin believe there’s still room for a publication that pulls rock ‘n’ roll fans together, from people who like HAIM to fans of Metallica. The world also needs people who can write about the genre with attitude, Martin said.

“When was the last time you laughed when you read about music?” Martin said.

While Bangs, who died in

1982, is no longer around, there are many new voices important to the current scene, some working on forums like Substack, he said. The first issue’s mix of articles speaks to Creem’s intended breadth. For nostalgists, there’s an excerpt of a never-published book on the Who, a reevaluation of a 1972 rock album put out by the Osmonds and a revival of the “Stars’ Cars” feature with Slash and his wheels. There are stories on newer artists of various popularity levels like Mac DeMarco and Amyl and the Sniffers and personalities from rap and R&B like Lil Aaron and KeiYaA.

Samir Husni, founder and director of the Magazine Media Center, said he’s already paid for a subscription and is impressed by the new business plan. Plenty of people remember Creem fondly and would be curious about a reboot, he said.

“They are looking for customers who count, instead of counting customers,” Husni said.

That said, magazine revivals are more likely to fail than succeed, he said. A brand may have value, but not if people think time has passed it by. Husni said Creem may have to rethink its plans not to offer the magazine on newsstands or in bookstores.

The revival has been draining physically, emotionally and mentally, Kramer said.

□

CNN cancels ‘Reliable Sources,’ host Stelter leaving network



Brian Stelter attends the 15th annual CNN Heroes All-Star Tribute in New York on Dec. 12, 2021.

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — CNN has canceled its weekly “Reliable Sources” show on the media, and said Thursday that its host, Brian Stelter, is leaving the network.

The show will have its last broadcast this Sunday.

CNN has been looking to cut costs but also to put forth a less opinionated product.

Stelter has written a book, “Hoax: Donald Trump, Fox News and the Dangerous Distortion of Truth” and been critical of Fox News, making him a frequent tar-

get of the CNN’s conservative critics.

Stelter came to CNN from The New York Times, where he was a media writer.

“He departs CNN as an impeccable broadcaster,” said Amy Entelis, executive vice president of talent and content development at CNN.

“We are proud of what Brian and his team accomplished over the years, and we’re confident their impact and influence will long outlive the show.”

Stelter said that he was

grateful for his nine years at CNN, proud of the show and thankful to its viewers.

“It was a rare privilege to lead a weekly show focused on the press at a time when it has never been more consequential,” he said.

“I’ll have more to say on Sunday.”

The “Reliable Sources” newsletter, a daily compendium of the media’s big stories, will continue and will be led by CNN senior media reporter Oliver Darcy. □

Pujols hits grand slam, leads Wainwright, Cards over Rockies

By JOE HARRIS

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Albert Pujols launched a pinch-hit grand slam and drove in five runs, Adam Wainwright pitched seven sharp innings and the St. Louis Cardinals routed the Colorado Rockies 13-0 Thursday for a three-game sweep.

The Rockies lost starting pitcher Antonio Senzatela and right fielder Charlie Blackmon in the second inning to leg injuries. Senzatela crumpled to the ground after attempting to cover first base and Blackmon was removed an inning after beating out an infield single.

The NL Central-leading Cardinals won their fourth in a row and sent Colorado to its fifth straight loss. St. Louis has won 12 of its last 13 home games and has taken 12 straight from the Rockies at Busch Stadium.

Pujols hit his 690th career home run, connecting off Austin Gomber and capping a five-run third that made it 10-0. It was Pujols' 16th career grand slam — his first as a pinch hitter — and it moved him into a tie with Hank Aaron, Babe Ruth and Dave Kingman for 10th-most slams of all-time.



St. Louis Cardinals' Albert Pujols watches his grand slam during the third inning of a baseball game against the Colorado Rockies Thursday, Aug. 18, 2022, in St. Louis.

Associated Press

Pujols added an RBI single. Wainwright (10-9) gave up three hits, two of them infield singles. He struck out seven, walked none and retired his final 13 batters. Génesis Cabrera and Chris Stratton each pitched a scoreless inning of relief to complete the four-hitter. Lars Nootbaar hit a two-run homer. Paul Goldschmidt

added two doubles and a single. Senzatela (3-7) struggled prior to his injury, giving up five runs in 1 2/3 innings. The right-hander is 0-5 with a 6.41 ERA in his eight road starts this season. HOME COOKIN' The Cardinals' win streak over the Rockies at Busch dates to Aug. 1, 2018. It is

the second-longest home winning streak against a club for the Cardinals, one shy of their 13 in a row against the Cubs from Oct. 3, 1999, to June 16, 2001. GOLDEN GLOVES The Cardinals did not commit an error in any of the six games during the homestand. It was their first errorless homestand of six or

more games since Aug. 1-7, 2008. St. Louis went 5-1 in the games against Colorado and Milwaukee.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Rockies: C Elias Díaz (left wrist sprain) took swings Thursday and is playing catch pain free. RHP ...Chad Kuhl (right hip flexor strain) will make a rehab start for Triple-A Albuquerque on Saturday night.

Cardinals: LHP Steven Matz (left MCL tear) will throw off a mound this weekend. RHP Jack Flaherty (right shoulder strain) is expected to throw 65-70 pitches for Double-A Springfield on Sunday.

UP NEXT

Rockies: RHP José Ureña (1-4, 4.80 ERA) will start the first of a three-game series against visiting San Francisco and RHP Logan Webb (11-5, 3.00 ERA) on Friday night. Ureña is 0-3 with a 7.77 ERA over his last five starts.

Cardinals: RHP Miles Miko-las (9-9, 3.44 ERA) will begin a three-game series at Arizona, which will start LHP Tommy Henry (2-1, 4.15 ERA) on Friday night. Miko-las is 1-1 with a 2.55 in four career appearances, including two starts, against the Diamondbacks. □

LeBron James inks 2-year, \$97.1 million deal with Lakers

LOS ANGELES (AP) — LeBron James has agreed to a two-year, \$97.1 million contract extension through the 2024-25 season with the Los Angeles Lakers, his agent announced Wednesday. Klutch Sports CEO Rich Paul said the league-maximum deal makes James the highest-paid player in NBA history. His new deal includes a player option that would keep the second-leading scorer in NBA history with the Lakers past his 40th birthday in December 2024.

The 37-year-old James is headed into the final year of his most recent contract with the Lakers, who signed the four-time NBA Most Valuable Player and four-time league champion in July 2018. The new deal means the 18-time All-Star

will make \$46.7 million this season.

Barring injury, James is likely to surpass Kareem Abdul-Jabbar as the NBA's career scoring king this winter. James and the Lakers also still hope to be in contention for another title if James and Anthony Davis can return at full health after an injury-plagued 2021-22 ended without a playoff appearance.

James' new deal syncs with Davis' most recent contract extension with the Lakers, allowing both to leave the Lakers or to negotiate new deals in 2024. Both super-stars are represented by Klutch.

James' recommitment to the Lakers also silences persistent talk of his possible departure as a free agent or in a trade. James hasn't

appeared to be going anywhere on social media or in his public appearances, and he praised the hiring of new Lakers coach Darvin Ham.

James has missed significant portions of the season due to injury in three of his four years with the Lakers. He was largely healthy in the elongated 2019-20 season when the Lakers won the franchise's 17th NBA title in the Florida bubble, and he has been every bit the dominant player of his prime when at full strength in the ensuing two years.

Although his contract status inspired plenty of offseason chatter, James seemed unlikely to relocate after spending the past four seasons of his 19-year career with the storied Lakers. His family is settled in Los An-



Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James shoots during the first half of an NBA basketball game against the Oklahoma City Thunder on Feb. 8, 2021, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

geles, where his eldest son, Bronny, is a 17-year-old senior and college basketball prospect playing at Sierra Canyon High School in Chatsworth.

James has occasionally said he intends to play on

the same team with Bronny when his son reaches the NBA. Although plenty of obstacles remain between the younger James and the NBA, he could be draft-eligible in the summer of 2024. □

Browns QB Deshaun Watson settles for 11-game suspension

BEREA, Ohio (AP) — Cleveland Browns quarterback Deshaun Watson will serve an 11-game unpaid suspension, pay a \$5 million fine and undergo professional evaluation and treatment as part of a settlement with the NFL following accusations of sexual misconduct by two dozen women.

The league had sought to ban Watson for at least one year for violating its personal conduct policy. He was accused of sexually harassing and coercing the women during massage therapy sessions while he played for the Houston Texans.

Watson signed a \$230 million fully guaranteed contract after being traded to the Browns in March. The three-time Pro Bowler will lose \$632,500 in salary this season while serving the suspension, which takes effect Aug. 30.

"My whole life I just have to be able to move forward and that's the plan," Watson said shortly after the settlement became public. "I have to be able to move forward with my career, move forward with my family, my personal life and everything."

The settlement ends months of speculation and headed off a ruling from former New Jersey attorney general Peter C. Harvey, who was appointed by Commissioner Roger Goodell after the league appealed a six-game suspension issued by disciplinary officer Sue L. Robinson.

As part of the settlement between the league and the NFL Players Association, Watson will have to be evaluated by behavioral experts and follow their treatment program, the NFL said.

Watson, who recently apologized for the first time since the allegations surfaced, spoke to reporters after the settlement was announced. He offered more contrition while maintaining he never has been inappropriate with women. "I've always stood on my innocence and always said that I've never assaulted anyone or disrespected



Cleveland Browns quarterback Deshaun Watson throws during NFL football practice in Berea, Ohio, Sunday, Aug. 14, 2022.

Associated Press

anyone and I'm continuing to stand on that," he said. "But at the same time, I have to continue to push forward with my life and my career, and for us to be able to move forward, I have to be able to take steps and put pride to the side."

"I'm going to continue to stand on my innocence and keep pushing forward, and I've always stood on not disrespecting or sexually assaulting anyone."

As part of the settlement, Watson may return for the Browns' game on Dec. 4 in Houston. He won't be allowed at the team's facility during the suspension and will be eligible for reinstatement on Nov. 28.

Browns coach Kevin Stefanski said Watson will not play in any of Cleveland's preseason games.

Along with his \$5 million fine, the league and Browns are donating \$1 million each to a fund that will support non-profit organizations across the country to educate young people on "healthy relationships, promote education and prevention of sexual misconduct and assault, support survivors, and related causes."

Browns owners Dee and Jimmy Haslam, who have been widely criticized for trading for Watson, stood by the QB. They said they expect him to learn and

grow from the experience. "Since Deshaun came into our building in April, he has done everything we have asked of him and more," Jimmy Haslam said at a news briefing with his wife and Browns general manager Andrew Berry. "And he has been the person, the leader that we expect him to be and I think he understands where he is in his life, it's a pivotal point, and we as an organization are going to do everything we can to help him not only be the best football player he can be but more important to be the best person he can be."

Haslam was asked if he's still comfortable with Watson being on Cleveland's roster.

"Absolutely," he said. "100%" On Aug. 1, Watson was suspended six games by Robinson, a former federal judge jointly appointed by the league and union to act as an independent disciplinary officer. She found the 26-year-old violated the league's conduct policy and called his behavior "egregious" and "predatory."

Believing the suspension was too light, the league appealed and pushed Watson's case back to Goodell, who had handled all player discipline in the past. The league previously pushed for an indefinite

suspension and hefty fine.

At the owners' meetings this month, Goodell said the league's pursuit of a year-long ban was warranted following its investigation and Robinson's findings.

"She reinforced the evidence," Goodell said. "There were multiple violations that were egregious, and it was predatory behavior."

In her conclusion, Robinson cited Watson's lack of remorse as a factor in her decision. Watson apologized for the first time "to all the women that I have impacted" before making his Browns' debut Friday in an exhibition in Jacksonville.

Watson was accused of being sexually inappropriate with the women during massage therapy sessions from March 2020 to March 2021 in Texas. In civil lawsuits filed in Texas, the women accused Watson of exposing himself, touching them with his penis or kissing them against their will. One woman alleged Watson forced her to perform oral sex.

Two separate grand juries in Texas declined to indict Watson, who recently settled 23 of 24 lawsuits.

For now, the suspension ends months of speculation about whether Watson would play in 2022 for the Browns, who outbid several other teams, traded

three first-round draft picks to the Texans in March and signed the QB to a five-year contract.

Watson's case sparked strong opinions while raising questions about the league's handling of player discipline and its spotty record of supporting women. The Browns believe Watson could make them a Super Bowl contender. Without him, they could struggle to simply contend in the AFC North against defending conference champion Cincinnati along with Baltimore and Pittsburgh.

All along, the Browns' plan was to turn their offense over to veteran Jacoby Brissett, who has made 37 career starts, during Watson's suspension. But it's now possible Cleveland will explore other options at quarterback.

The suspension also means Watson will be idle longer. One of pro football's elite QBs, he sat out last season in Houston after demanding a trade and before the sexual allegations surfaced.

In her 16-page ruling, Robinson found that the league proved its case that Watson violated three provisions of the conduct policy: sexual assault as defined by the league, posing a genuine danger to the safety and well-being of another and undermining or putting the league's integrity at risk.

Attorney Tony Buzbee, who represents all 24 women who sued Watson, was critical of the NFL's handling of the case and settlement.

"By settling this matter the way he has, Roger Goodell has proven one of two things: Either his recent rhetoric was utter baloney, or his bark is much worse than his bite," Buzbee said in a statement. "My belief is that he is nothing more than a paper tiger."

"The message today to all victims is clear, if you believe you have been sexually assaulted by a powerful person, keep your mouth shut and go away. The NFL has certainly demonstrated that its ownership and the organization doesn't care. □